

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 03282 101220Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----101221Z 113571 /53
O 101150Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2644
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 3282

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AF, IR, PFOR
SUBJ: AFGHAN-IRANIAN RELATIONS--SECRETARY'S VISIT TO TEHRAN

REF: KABUL 2817

1. WAHEED ABDULLAH, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN AFGHANISTAN, TOLD ME MAY 9 THAT AS A RESULT OF MR. MOHAMMED NAIM'S VISIT TO TEHRAN MAY 7 AND 8, "THE HELMAND PROBLEM HAS BEEN SOLVED." ACCORDING TO ABDULLAH AND A SENIOR AIDE, MR. NAIM (PRESIDENT DAOUD'S BROTHER) WAS ABLE TO CONVINCE THE SHAH THAT GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) PLANS TO BUILD THE KAMAL KHAN DAM ON THE LOWER HELMAND RIVER ARE NOT REPEAT NOT DIRECTED ATPSRAN.

2. AS EVIDENCE OF NAIM'S SUCCESS, THE GOA OFFICIALS TELL ME THAT A SPECIAL DELEGATION HEADED BY PLANNING MINISTER KHURRAM, WILL LEAVE FOR TEHRAN MAY 13 TO DISCUSS THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF GETTING GOING ON IRANIAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN.

3. INCIDENTALLY, THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO TEHRAN, WHO HAS BEEN VISITING KABUL THIS WEEK, SAYS IT IS HIS IMPRESSION
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THAT AFGHANISTAN HAS BEEN AT THE TOP OF THE SHAH'S LIST
IN TERMS OF FOREIGN POLICY CONCENTRATION RIGHT NOW.

4. IN VIEW OF THE WELCOME DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED IN PARAGRAPHS ONE AND TWO, I RECOMMEND, THEREFORE, THAT THE PROPOSED TALKING POINTS FOR SECRETARY VANCE (REFTTEL) BE AMENDED ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES. THE SECRETARY MIGHT:

--NOTE WITH PLEASURE REPORTS THAT THE SHAH AND THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) ARE ENGAGED IN TALKS TO COMPOSE THEIR DIFFERENCES OVER THE HELMAND WATERS ALLOCATION.

--STRESS OUR VIEW THAT IT IS IN OUR JOINT AMERICAN-IRANIAN INTERESTS THAT AFGHANISTAN REMAIN STABLE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN PAKISTAN.

--STRESS OUR PERCEPTION THAT AFGHAN INDEPENDENCE, ESPECIALLY FROM THE SOVIET UNION, WILL BE ENHANCED BY IRANIAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.

--INDICATE OUR VIEW THAT AFGHAN POLICY TOWARD PAKISTAN IS RESTRAINED AND DESIGNED NOT TO HARM THE PROGRESS MADE IN LAST YEAR'S DAOUD-BHUTTO TALKS.

5. TEHRAN MAY WISH TO APPEND COMMENT.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 10-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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